

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

ADP-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 GAC-01 NASA-04 SAJ-01 SCI-06

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R 111741 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USDEL SALT TWO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MCAP, US, UR

SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

1. TRANSLATION OF ORAL STATEMENT ( INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS NOTE IN REFTEL) REGARDING RATIFICATION OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION HANDED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL BY SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER COUNSELOR VORONTSOV APRIL 5 FOLLOWS:

2. " THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DESTRUCTION OF BACTERIOLOGICAL ( BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS, THE DEPOSITARIES OF WHICH ARE THE USSR, THE US, AND GREAT BRITAIN. THIS CONVENTION IS A SUBSTANTIVE DISARMAMENT MEASURE. ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE OPENS UP NEW AND FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR JOINT EFFORTS DESIGNED TO SLACKEN THE ARMAMENTS RACE AND ACHIEVE DISARMAMENT; IT WILL DOUBTLESSLY CONTRIBUTE TOWARD RELAXING INTERNATIONAL TENSION IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PEOPLES.

3. THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS ALREADY HAS RECEIVED WIDE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION; AT THE PRESENT TIME, OVER 100 STATES HAVE SIGNED IT.

4. NEVERTHELESS, ONLY 16 STATES HAVE RATIFIED THE CONVENTION, WHICH HAS CONSEQUENTLY NOT YET ENTERED INTO FORCE. THE FACT THAT THE CONVENTION HAS NOT YET BEEN RATIFIED BY THE DEPOSITARY STATES HAS AN UNFAVORABLE EFFECT ON ITS RATIFICATION BY OTHER STATES. A FURTHER DELAY IN ITS RATIFICATION BY THE DEPOSITARY STATES MIGHT EXPOSE THEM TO CRITICISM, ESPECIALLY AT THE FORTHCOMING 28 TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UN.

5. PROCEEDING FROM THE DESIRABILITY OF A PROMPT ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THIS CONVENTION, THE SOVIET UNION FOR ITS PART IS TAKING STEPS TO RATIFY IT. THE CONVENTION IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSIONS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET OF THE UNION AND THE SOVIET OF NATIONALITIES OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR, WHICH ARE TO SUBMIT THEIR RESOLUTIONS ON THE CONVENTION TO THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR.

6. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TOO, TOOK PRACTICAL STEPS TO EXPEDITE THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION. THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED TO COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER TWO DEPOSITARIES OF THE CONVENTION SPECIFIC TERMS FOR ITS RATIFICATION.

7. IN PRESENTING THESE CONSIDERATIONS, THE SOVIET SIDE EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE DULY CONSIDERED BY THE US GOVERNMENT. ROGERS  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MCAP, PARM, UR, US  
**To:** GENEVA  
LONDON  
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NATO  
SALT TALKS  
USUN NEW YORK  
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